BENGALURU, FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2024 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

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Civic body to develop bioretention system for natural filtration in stormwater drains, & preserve rainwater

FLOW PROFILE

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The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) issued a public notification for expression of interest from firms engaged in corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives to participate in pioneering urban water management projects in the city.

The BWSSB's initiative aims to collaborate on the development of a bioretention system and preservation of rainwater, and the introduction of natural filtration in storm water drains. Bioretention is the process in which contaminants and sediments are removed from stormwater runoff.

The water board aims to integrate green infrastructure with water and sewage

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 »

SECURITY CHECK

Vidhana Soudha finally has new baggage scanners

CITY PAGE 6

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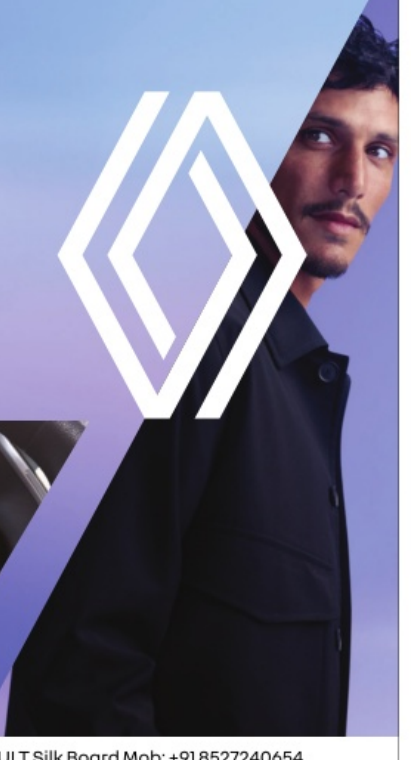

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Shock after death at Attiguppe metro station

Student said to have jumped on tracks; commuters urge platform screen doors or other measures

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Services of the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) were disrupted on Thursday after a 19-year-old jumped on the tracks before the train arrived at the Attiguppe metro station. The victim has been identified as Dhruv Thakkar, a first year student at the National Law School of India University (NLSIU), originally hailing from Maharashtra.

He is said to have died on the spot. According to authorities, the incident occurred at 2:10 pm, disrupting services between Magadi Road and Chalaghatta, with trains running from Magadi Road to Whitefield on the Purple Line. At 4:17 pm, BMRCL wrote on X: "The body of the male, aged around 19 years, was taken to the hospital for post-mortem by the police after the mahazar was conducted. Train operations on the Purple line have resumed after clearance by the police."

Thakkar is said to have jumped onto the tracks right before the train approached the Attiguppe metro station platforms, leading to two coaches running over him. Despite the loco pilot applying brakes, the train was unable to stop immediately, leaving the body trapped beneath the train. Officials have had to retrieve the body from underneath. Soon after the incident, all the passengers on the particular train were made to alight, affecting commuters.

NLSIU Vice Chancellor, Sudhir Krishnaswamy, in a statement, said, "The NLSIU, Bengaluru, is deeply shocked and saddened by the sudden and unexpected demise of one of our students, Dhruv Jatin Thakkar. Dhruv was a first-year student of the BA LLB programme and hailed from Mumbai."

"He was a warm and compassionate person and a bright and diligent student, well-liked by his peers and faculty. The NLS community stands in solidarity with his grieving family and friends in this period of deep sadness. The University staff is working closely with the authorities and extending all support to his family members. We request all members of the community to respect the privacy of the family at this time," Krishnaswamy said. As a symbol of respect, classes scheduled to be conducted for the next week have been dismissed.

> **"Train operations on the Purple line have resumed after clearance by the police** – BMRCL

This is the second such incident to take place within the premises of a metro station. While there have been several suicide attempts made, the previous recorded death was in 2012, when a 17-year-old boy jumped in front of the train at the MG Road metro station.

Large crowds gathered at Attiguppe Metro station after the accident on Thursday

Safety measure

This incident has once again brought limelight on the demand for Platform Screen Doors (PSDs) at metro stations across the city. PSD helps in curbing dangerous incidents like passengers falling onto the tracks by reducing the chances of their ability to lean over the platform edge or move around beyond the areas designated for passengers to wait prior to the arrival of trains.

"Metros in other cities such as Chennai and Delhi have already adopted PSD, we must also follow this route considering that the incidents have been increasing frequently. Commuters can visibly notice that the steel railings which have been installed at the Majestic metro station help the guards who are stationed to man the crowd. If the PSDs are implemented, it will make their job obsolete if not help," said a frequent commuter. The most recent incident occurred on January 5, when a commuter jumped in front of a train at Jalahalli metro station around 7:12 pm leading him to be grievously injured.

BMRCL has said that it will be installing PSDs at 12 underground stations along the Pink Line (Kalena Agrahara- Nagawara) as part of Phase 2.

BM win-win contest

Holi is a festival of music, colours, dance, and fun with friends. If you have not yet made a plan of where to spend the festival, don't worry, **Bangalore Mirror** has your back. We know this festival calls for a mega party with a DJ, dance, organic colours, dhol beats and more. So don't miss out on this chance to be part of the biggest open air **Holi fest** in the city. All you have to do for us, is to let us know a bit more about you and the chance is yours.

The first few most fun answers can win passes to Hello Holi – Edition 2 at Jayamahal Palace on March 25.

Put on your liveliest thinking cap and let us know in less than 200 words:

Which is your most favourite childhood memory of the festival of colours Holi?

Write to us at 9591233247

Go on!

2 THINGS TO DO

01 Art exhibit

Join Anita Saran at her fourth solo painting exhibition, 'Sarandipity Perspectives', a series that reflects her unique worldview, inspired by her journey through fashion, love for nature and animals, exploration of artificial intelligence, and her spiritual journey. **When: March 20 to 24, 11 am to 7 pm; Where: Chitrakala Parishad**

Public exam confusion: 'Counsel students'

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Child rights activists, teachers, and concerned parents are in a dilemma as the status of conducting public examinations for primary school students is being debated. The activists urge the state education department to mandate counselling sessions in schools in order to instil confidence among the class 5 students and ease their anxiety over the remaining exams that the Supreme Court had put on hold.

According to Nagasimha G Rao from the Child Rights Trust, school management and officials of the Education Department have to organise awareness programmes and explain to primary and high school students that exams are merely a part of their education and that they shouldn't fear or be worried about writing public examinations. "The more delay in conducting counselling programmes, the more children will suffer from anxiety and depression," said Rao.

Describing class 5 students as too young either to understand or to know about public examinations, Veena Mohan, president, Pragna Public School, said that she, as a parent and a teacher, considers their existing condition as bad and also a cause of concern. "I am finding it difficult to answer their queries about conducting the remaining two

examinations. Some students are asking me why our examination issue is in the court that is known for hearing petitions pertaining to land disputes and law and order issues," she said.

"Parents and teachers prepared them to attend public examinations, and the students completed two papers. The cancellation of the remaining two has put them in a dilemma about planning their vacations," said Jyothi Malugol, a social worker.

Meanwhile, Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) member Manju S said that, as per the Right to Education Act, the government should not conduct public examinations for class 5, and the department's lack of foresight and concern has affected both parents and children. "The state education department did not hold public consultation before taking a decision on conducting public examinations for these students. The delay and confusion in conducting the remaining examinations has become a hurdle for children and their parents who want to go to their native or visit their grandparents. It has to do something to mitigate parents and children's woes," he added.

02 Dance and therapy

Embark on a transformative journey with a Mindful Moves movement workshop by Sreya Ridhiban, a certified dance movement therapist and experience the power of movement to nourish the soul and awaken the senses by exploring the profound connection between mind and body, using movement as a tool for self-expression, healing, and personal growth. This workshop offers a safe and supportive environment to cultivate mindfulness, release tension, and discover inner harmony. **When: March 23, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm; Where: Atta Galatta**

MARUTI SUZUKI

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SCARCITY IN CITY

Enhanced treated waste water solutions for city

BWSSB's treated water initiatives gain momentum, private sector urges streamlined supply chain adoption

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

KC Valley sewage treatment plant in Bengaluru

Bengaluru's recycled wastewater is generating significant interest in the construction industry, according to officials from the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB).

BWSSB chairman Ram Prasath Manohar stated that demand for treated wastewater tankers has increased in the past week. As construction companies embrace the concept, the demand is expected to rise further in the coming days.

"We've gone from zero tankers to construction sites to currently delivering 49 tankers of treated water to various government infrastructure projects. We are utilising BWSSB's Parisara Jalasnehi application, launched a week ago, to monitor treated sewage from sewage treatment plants (STPs) for public use. We recently consulted 336 major developers in the city, and they have expressed satisfaction with the quality of our treated wastewater. They have assured us that they will contribute their borewells. This demand is expected to surge in the coming days," said Manohar, adding that apartments will soon be invited to sell their STP water to meet the growing demand.

> **We've gone from zero tankers to construction sites to currently delivering 49 tankers of treated water to various government infrastructure projects** –Ram Prasath Manohar, chairman, BWSSB

"Although our focus is currently on utilising BWSSB's treated water, apartments selling treated water will be the next step. We will soon invite apartments to sell their excess STP water," clarified Manohar.

While BWSSB-treated water is being utilised at government sites, private developers have yet to fully embrace the idea. According to the Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI), Karnataka, the lack of a feasible supply chain for treated wastewater is a major concern that needs to be addressed to popularise its use among private developers.

"Using treated water is the only viable solution for addressing the needs of the current market conditions. While the industry is ready to use it, developers are concerned about the low supply and lack of a feasible supply chain. For now, we only have BWSSB's treated water at our disposal, which might not be sufficient. Sourcing and transporting it from apartment complexes is a significant challenge. As far as water quality is concerned, the government should consider involving a credible research institute to endorse and approve the water quality to gain developers' trust," said Suresh Hari, secretary of CREDAI, Karnataka.

Apartment complexes with excess treated water suggest that with the current holding capacity of STPs, approval of a temporary waterline connection between a construction site and a neighbouring residential complex with a treated water facility would be beneficial for both parties.

"BWSSB should allow the installation of a temporary waterline between apartment complexes and adjacent construction sites. This would make it advantageous for developers as transportation costs would be avoided," said Satish Mallya, vice president of the Bangalore Apartments Federation (BAF).

Experts call for urgent measures to save water

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

With a severe water crisis looming, experts express optimism providing that the government acts swiftly. Dr KN Radhika, Professor in Geology Engineering, emphasised the need for innovative measures like atmospheric water catchers, stating, "We need to look at global models and plan well. Approximately 20.74 TMC feet of water can be tapped in Bengaluru."

During a discussion on effective dialogue on water management, organised by the Public Council Relations of India, Dr HSM Prakash, Deputy Director General (Retired), predicted another year of monsoon deficit. Justice K Sridhar Rao, Former Chief Justice of the High Court of Assam, addressed the root causes of Bengaluru's water crisis, highlighting urban expansion and population growth as significant strains on water resources. Encroachment on lakes and groundwater depletion have exacerbated the crisis over time.

A dried-up Nallurahalli Lake

Justice Rao stressed the necessity for policies prioritising drinking water over agricultural use and encouraging sustainable practices, stating, "We need to consider suggestions like reviving lakes, promoting work-from-home initiatives, and desalination as a long-term solution."

Justice Krishna Bhat emphasised the need for practical steps to address water wastage in the city. He stressed conducting water leakage audits and fixing infrastructure issues such as rusted pipes and missing taps in government offices. Bhat advocated for promoting water-efficient crops and improving waste management systems to reduce water consumption. Additionally, he highlighted the importance of prioritising millets over water-intensive crops like paddy and sugarcane, which not only consume excessive water but may also have negative health implications.

Environmentalist Suresh Heblikar urged the government to refrain from encroaching on peri-urban areas that sustain cities, warning of the risk of eliminating water bodies.

Water expert S Vishwanath cited Cubbon Park as a prime example of water conservation, highlighting its 76 recharge wells and six wells for efficient water management. He emphasised focusing on Bengaluru's many solutions, stating, "This is not the worst drought we are seeing." He noted Bengaluru's history of severe famines, such as during 1876-79 in the old Mysuru region, and emphasised the need to protect not only lakes but also the Cauvery basin, upon which the city heavily relies.

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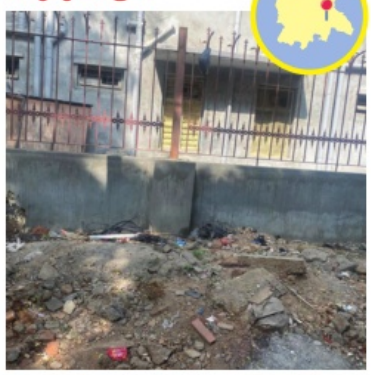
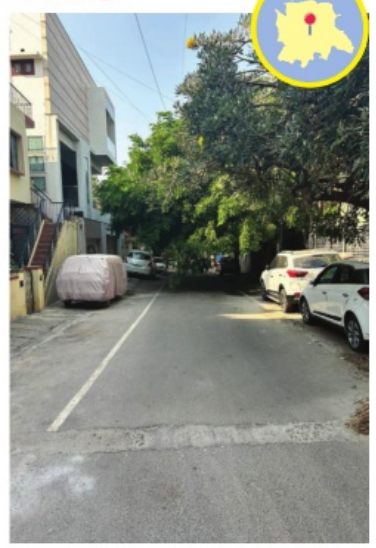
Waste on fire
Rajajinagar



Incessant garbage burning occurs on the vacant sites next to the Mayura Hotel in the 6th block and is causing breathing issues.

Debris destruction
Viveknagar



Road blockage caused by overhanging trees along 9th cross, MC Layout, Govindaraja Nagar threatens vehicles and buildings. The debris left on the footpath opposite Sri Ram Hospital, after BBMP replastered an old building, has remained unattended for over 10 months.

Dangerous pavement
Nagawara

The footpath on the main road in front of an apartment has been dangerously neglected, posing risks to pedestrians, especially after sunset.

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Brunch Timing: 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm
Venue: CUR8
Price: 3200 +tax per person (without alcohol) | 5000 +tax per person (with alcohol)
Call –080 4522 2222 or 96064 87956

A BLOOMING HOLI WITH FLOWER PETALS

This March 24th, the festival of colours takes on a whole new meaning as Four Seasons Bengaluru introduces Holi with a floral twist.

CUR8 transforms into a fragrant oasis while embracing the spirit of sustainability with a one-of-a-kind flower petal Holi. The Hotel replaces the usual splashes of coloured powder with reused flower petals, ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience filled with laughter and joy.

HOPPY EASTER SURPRISES

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Brunch Timing: 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm
Venue: CUR8
Price: 3200 +tax per person (without alcohol) | 5000 +tax per person (with alcohol)
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Embrace nature's colours, indulge in delectable treats, and create cherished memories with your nearest and dearest this month, with a commitment to sustainability, inclusivity, and culinary excellence at Four Seasons Hotel Bengaluru.

A colourful blend of Holi and Easter celebrations at CUR8's Sunday brunch

Vidhana Soudha finally has new baggage scanners

As seat of governance gets long-awaited security measure, staffers stress on maintenance

| Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The condition of baggage scanners has been a cause of concern for police who guard Vidhana Soudha, the state's seat of governance. The scanners here had been under repair for many years unofficially and defunct officially for the last three years. The scanners, kept at five locations around Vidhana Soudha building, used to hit the headlines whenever a security breach took place.

A lack of coordination between the police department and public works department had delayed the shifting of scanners from Vidhana Soudha corridor to the newly constructed structures in November 2013. Lack of air-conditioners at the then newly constructed structures was attributed as one of the reasons for the delay.

The scanners were shifted to the new structures a decade ago but they became defunct within a few years. The poor condition of scanners compelled hapless police personnel to scan all the baggage manually. It is alleged that higher authorities, including the public works department, remained apathetic towards this issue till the unfortunate security breach took place at Vidhana Soudha last year. The breach made the Assembly Speaker visit all the entry points and inspect the working condition of baggage scanners. Finally, the Speaker directed the authorities concerned to procure baggage scanners to prevent security breaches.

Now, the installation of baggage scanners at Vidhana Soudha, Vikasa Soudha, Legislators' Home, Raj Bhavan, Commissioner of Police Office, and Karnataka High Court is in progress. "I am happy to see new scanners being installed at Vidhana Soudha. The Honourable Speaker took note of a security breach in which a stranger managed to enter the Legislative Assembly. Now, it will be easy for police to scan visitors' and employees' baggage," said Vidhana Soudha guide J Gnanasekhar.

Baggage scanners being unloaded from a truck at Vidhana Soudha; One of the baggage scanners installed

"I appeal to the authorities concerned to ensure proper maintenance of baggage scanners as these are procured with tax-payers' money
–Vidhana Soudha employee

Vidhana Soudha (Security) Deputy Commissioner of Police said the installation of three baggage scanners at Vidhana Soudha has been completed. "The installation of remaining baggage scanners will be completed shortly. Police personnel managing the scanners will be given training by the manufacturers of the machines. One scanner is installed at Raj Bhavan and one at Legislators' Home," the DCP said.

However, an employee working at Vidhana Soudha, on a condition of anonymity, said that installing baggage scanners is not a big thing but maintaining them is a bigger challenge. "I appeal to the authorities concerned to ensure proper maintenance of baggage scanners as these are procured with tax-payers' money," the employee said.

Bangalore Mirror published a story – Security breach – on September 21, 2023 narrating the condition of baggage scanners that were defunct for more than two years and how higher authorities did not bother to repair the defunct baggage scanners.

There is no smoke without fire, Channasandra residents cry out

The residents of K Channasandra Main Road (Near Horamavu and opposite Ramapura lake) have expressed concern over the issue of rampant garbage burning which happens 24x7 and massive fires at night. They alleged that over 500 families are affected by this.

According to the residents, there is an illegal waste segregation unit that has come up three years back here and the tents are increasing at an alarming rate. "They flout all the rules of not burning garbage in the open and that too in residential areas. Over these years, we have raised multiple complaints with BBMP and they always close the tickets without resolution to the problem. One week back, finally after raising 100+ tickets they went to the site and gave them a so-called warning but the burning did not stop at all," said a citizen on the condition of anonymity.

They stated that massive fires every day are causing them serious health issues. "I'm asthmatic and have little kids. The garbage burning is so rampant and the smoke fills our balconies and homes. In this hot summer we cannot breathe," the resident added.

According to the resident, there is a camp here and despite BBMP giving warning, the situation persists. "There is absolutely no fear amongst people living in these colonies when BBMP gives them warning - as if they know nothing will happen to them," said a resident also adding that more earth movers are coming here to clear more ground for more tents to come up.

The citizens pointed out that this has been happening from 2020 and that time there were hardly any tenants, however now many have come up.

– Iffath Fathima

Garbage burning at K Channasandra Main Road

How to tackle forest fires, IISc way

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Accelerated climate change has made forest fires increasingly catastrophic not just in India, but across the world. To tackle this issue, researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have come up with a new approach. A team of researchers has taken the technology a step further and has proposed 'coordinated multi-swarm drones swooping in' to quell forest fires.

"A swarm of drones could be the solution. By the time somebody identifies and reports a fire, it has already started spreading and cannot be put out with one drone. You need to have a swarm of drones that can communicate with each other," said Suresh Sundaram, Professor in the Department of Aerospace Engineering, IISc.

Researchers have designed a special kind of algorithm that would allow the swarm to communicate with each other as well as make independent decisions. For instance, when an alarm is raised about a potential fire, the swarms can be sent in, each drone armed with cameras, thermal and infrared sensors, and temperature detectors, to spot the fires. Once the fire is discovered, the drone closest to it becomes the centre of the swarm and attracts others towards it. Interestingly, each drone will also have autonomy to calculate the fire's size and potential spread and decide how many drones are needed to quench the fire.

"These decisions are made by the drones. They figure out which cluster of fire is going to spread faster, and allocate the required number of drones to put out that fire while the others look for other fire clusters," said Professor Sundaram.

The algorithm developed by the team is key to controlling the drones' behaviour. Searching for fire cannot be random as the area to explore would be too large. To address this, the researchers took inspiration from the foraging behaviour of a marine predator, a flagellum called Oxyrrhis marina.

"When foraging, the flagellum takes longer steps to explore the area. Once it feels like it is closer to the food source, it will reduce the step length and then start exploring the area in more detail. We have incorporated this behaviour into the algorithm. The temperature sensors in the drones look for a minimum (threshold) value. When that is reached, the drones reduce their search step, because the fire is near," explained Josy John, PhD student at the Department of Aerospace Engineering, and lead author of the study published in IEEE Transactions on Systems, Man, and Cybernetics: Systems.

Researchers say the advantage of using drones is that the decision-making is decentralised, based on data, and aimed at maximum efficiency.

While the researchers have tested specific components of the approach, full-scale search and mitigation are yet to undergo field testing. Such drone swarms can also be helpful during other natural disasters like floods and earthquakes, to locate survivors, deliver water, food and medicines; and boost communication.

Crafty decor ideas for your home

Handicraft products have adorned homes across the globe for aeons. These handmade products can add an aesthetic appeal to any home. Here are some Indian handicraft products you can use to decorate your home with.

Clay: Clay pottery can add a rustic charm to your home. You can choose from a terracotta or red clay décor accent, to a black or grey vase. What's more? Utensils made of clay are perfect to cook your food.

Jute: This affordable material is all the rage, ever since the eco-friendly revolution set in. While many will vouch for the comfort of carrying jute bags and wearing clothes and footwear made of this material, none will deny the role jute wall hangings and rugs have played in making your home décor green.

Brass: Brass handicrafts, including vases, picture frames, lamps, figurines, and show pieces, best complement wooden furniture. These durable and sturdy decor options also make for the perfect gift for special occasions.

Paper: Handicrafts made of paper may seem like child's play, but getting simple paper to look like an intricate piece of art with all its folds is a lot of hard work. Colourful paper can be used to make decorative paper flowers, lanterns and even wall art.

Shells: This natural wonder can add a coastal charm to your home. Decorate your shelves with shell show pieces or a conch. You could also opt for the fancy curtains made using shells and colourful be ads.

— Femina

What to wear on Holi

1) Style inspiration

For those who prefer comfortable dressing, you can take a cue from B-town's Deepika Padukone, and pick a slightly loose t-shirt in bright shades of yellow, orange, red or even purple, and pair it with hot pants, like she did in the Bollywood Holi anthem 'Balam Pichkari.' To add a little twist to this, you can go for a fitted t-shirt and team it up with culottes or even funky pyjamas! This will make sure all colours showered on you stand out, and the added benefit is that you won't feel too hot!

2) Which fabric is best for Holi

Cotton is essentially the best material for this season as it keeps you cool irrespective of how harsh the Sun is especially with the late Holi this year around. It also ensures that even if you get drenched, the dress will still look pretty on you and not a slouch. Flashback to Alia Bhatt's Holi outfit in '2 States', you can pair a white sleeveless kurti with a multicoloured flared skirt or even shorts and dazzle in the most brilliant combination for this season.

3) Which ethnic Indian wear will be best for Holi?

If you are in the mood for some ethnic Indian wear, go for the classic combination we saw yesteryear superstar Rekha gracefully flaunt in the song 'Rang Barse.' So you can pair a white chikankari long kurta with leggings and if you'd like to add a little twist to it, you can team it up with a colourful bandhani print dupatta! Also, the colours of Holi are best showcased in white and give out a happy vibe. Even a white kurti with comfy jeans is a good option as it makes you look stylish yet relaxed.

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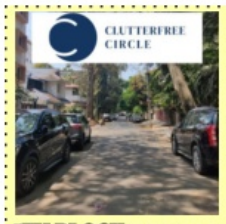

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CSR for natural filtration of stormwater drains

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

treatment plants and thus establish a global gold standard in urban water management.

"We are expecting some corporate companies to spend their CSR funds for pioneering urban water management in the city. We floated the tender on March 15 but did not receive any applications till date. The last date to submit applications is April 2," — BWSSB chief engineer (projects).

When asked how the BWSSB would ensure natural filtration in storm water drains as most of the drains are concretised, the BWSSB chief engineer said the corporate companies can take up rainwater harvesting at public places.

"Though the storm water drains are under the BBMP control, corporate companies can introduce natural filtration in storm water drains if the latter wants to introduce natural filtration in storm water drains. It is not the first time the BWSSB has invited applications from corporate companies. Prior to this, we invited applications for rain water harvesting projects but no corporate company evinced interest to take up rain water harvesting projects that were supposed to be launched three years ago," the chief engineer said.

> **Our SWD system is designed to dispose of all the rainwater we receive, instead of recharging the groundwater**
>
> –Nagesh Aras, environmentalist

Terming the BWSSB's advertising as designed to impress the gullible common man, but not likely to make any impact, Nagesh Aras, an environmentalist said people are facing water shortage in the city because neither BWSSB nor BBMP have worked for water security.

"Even today, they do not have any plans to maintain water balance in the city. Just rooftop rainwater harvesting is not sufficient: We receive a huge amount of rainwater in our open areas, but BBMP and BWSSB waste it through inept management. Firstly, our surface water is contaminated with sewage and industrial pollutants, and becomes unsuited for RWH. Secondly, our SWD system is designed to dispose of all the rainwater we receive, instead of recharging the groundwater. Under these circumstances, the call for CSR funds is meaningless," said Nagesh Aras.

Handing over

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) captain Ruturaj Gaikwad with teammate MS Dhoni during a training session ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 cricket match between Chennai Super Kings and Royal Challengers Bengaluru, at MA Chidambaram Stadium, in Chennai, Thursday. Dhoni handed the captaincy of CSK to Gaikwad, the club said on Thursday

Centre likely to notify MGNREGS wage revision

Clearance received from EC, ministry calls it 'routine' exercise

The Rural Development Ministry may notify revision in wage rates under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and it has received a clearance from the Election Commission as the poll code is in force, sources said on Thursday.

Though ministry officials refused to comment on the issue in view of the model code of conduct (MCC) being in place after the announcement of the Lok Sabha poll schedule, they said it is a "routine" matter and that ministries approach the EC for clearances when the model code is in place.

According to a source, the changes in rates are to be notified for the upcoming financial year starting April 1.

"It's the regular process of revision of rates every financial year from April 1. The ministry has taken permission from the EC for notifying it," the source said.

The Centre determines wages under the flagship scheme under sub-section (1) of section 6 of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, which says the Central government may, by notification, specify the wage rate for its beneficiaries.

Meanwhile, retired IAS officer EAS Sarma has written to the poll panel, saying while a similar clearance was given in 2019 for notifying MGNREGA wage changes, the poll panel had directed that no publicity should be given to the hike through media, no political functionaries should refer to it, and the restriction was imposed on both the Centre and states.

Changes in rates are to be notified for the upcoming financial year starting April 1, sources say

"I am sure that the Commission's latest clearance stipulated similar conditions. If not, it is necessary for the Commission to impose such restrictions," he said in his letter addressed to the Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and the two election commissioners.

Stating that the latest wage revision is "all over the press", he said, "apparently, the concerned Ministry has deliberately or otherwise given out the details to the media in violation of the MCC. May I call upon the Commission to investigate this urgently and take exemplary action, if necessary?"

He also sought the poll panel to impose restrictions on political functionaries as was done in 2019 and prohibit political functionaries from referring to the wage hike or parties to put up posters with political functionaries' pictures.

The last revision in MGNREGA wages was notified on March 24, 2023. The increase in the wages for different states varied from two per cent to 10 per cent. Karnataka, Goa, Meghalaya and Manipur were among the states which registered the lowest percentage increase in the wages.

Rajasthan had registered the highest percentage increase in the MNREGA wages. The revised rate for Rajasthan was Rs 255 against Rs 231 in 2022. **PTI**

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I, Sayed Zakriya Abid S/o, Sayed Abid Husain R/o 2bn 203, The Wisdom Tree Community, Hennur, Kothanur, Kothnur Narayanapura, Bengaluru - 560077 have changed my name to Sayed Zakriya for all purposes.

I NEELU SANDEEP TALASHI W/O, SANDEEP TALALSHI presently residing at HQ Training Command, Mekhri Circle, Hebbal, Bengaluru-560006 have changed my name to NEELU TALASHI vide Affidavit dated 12 Mar 2024 before METROPOLITAN AREA COURT Bengaluru

I Sundara Raj Hiriyur Puttalinga Setty s/o H Puttalinga Setty R/o #309, Intact Avenue, 13th Cross, Devarachikkanahalli Main Road, B'luru-560114 Have Changed my name to H P Sundar Raj for all Purposes.

I, Syed Mahboob Ghouse S/o Syed Ghouse R/o 35/1, Masjid Street, Neelasandra, Bengaluru 560047 have changed my name to SYED MAHBOOB affidavit Dt.21/03/2024 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Bidya Bhusan panda S/o. Bijaya Kumar Panda R/o. Flat no. 303C, Aratt Royal Manor, Somasundarapalya Circle, HSR Layout, Sector-2, Bangalore-560102, have changed my name to Neal Panda for all purposes.

I Hanumantha K S/O, Kalaiah R/o No 9a, Hallimysore Hobli, Haragodanahalli, Hassan, Karnataka - 573211 have changed my name to Hanumaiah H K.

I, Kala @Kala Anbu & Kala M S W/o Late Anbu, residing at No.16, Jeevanandham Street, Nagalkeni, Chromepet, Alandur Kancheepuram, Tamilnadu-600044 have changed my name to A KALA, vide affidavit dated 21.03.2024 before notary Renuka .C, B.lore

I, Shankar Naidu Jayaram & Anitha Naidu Shankar Naidu R/o #80/1 8th Main Road 6th Phase 1st Stage Rajajinagar B'luru-560010 Have Changed my Minor Daughter's name from Shreya to Shreya Shankar naidu for all Purposes.

I, AASTHA, Residing at No 45, 3rd Main Road, 4th Cross, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru - 560018, Have changed My name to AASTHA ANAND BAFNA vide affidavit dated 21/03/2024 before Notary Mamatha N.K Bangalore

I Ramesh Patel Narashimaiah s/o Pete Narasimhaiah R/o at #820/4 Shivalaya RRR House SRS Road 3rd Cross Peenya 2nd Block B'luru- 560058 have changed my name to Ramesh Patel all purpose.

I, Gayathri Visvanathan w/o Ramachandran Natarajan R/o A-505 Glen gate,house of hiranandani devi Nagar, B'luru-560094 have changed my name to Gayathri Ramachandran for all purposes.

I Shashank S/o Mohan. R/o No 09, vasvamba Road, near Little Flower Hospital, ramamurthy Nagar, doorvani Nagar Post, bengaluru 560016 have changed my name to Shashank Mohan for all purposes

I, Bariah Nawal Nasir Sayed, R/at Sims Serenity Flat No. 302, No. 418, 3rd A Main, 3rd Block, HRBR Layout, Bangalore-560043, have changed my name to Bariah Nawal Sayed, For all Purposes.

I, KABEER AHAMED S/o Anwar Sab R/o No.3/4, G/R-01, M M Ragency, Ganapathi pura main road, Near Prasanna poly clinic, J.P Nagar 7th Phase, Bangalore-560062 have changed my name to KABEER AHMED, affidavit dt: 20.03.2024 before notary V.Rajashekhara, B.lore.

I, VISHWAS MANEY, Residing at No 18, 4th Floor, Building No 61, Tivari Manor, H B Samaja Road, Basavangudi, Bangalore - 560004, Have changed My name to VISHWAS MAANEY vide affidavit dated 21/03/2024 before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

I, D PAULINE SHEEN, W/o. Antony Sheen Bosco, R/o No. 307, Sands Galaxy, Geethanjali School Rd, C V Raman Nagar, Bangalore-560093, Has changed My Name from PAULINE SHEEN to D PAULINE SHEEN for all future purposes.

I, UMA W/o Ramesh S T, R/o Magadi main road, near Govt School, Dasanapura Hobli, Chikkagollarahatti, Bangalore North, have changed my name to UMA RAMESH, vide affidavit dated 16.02.2024 before notary P.C Ramaiah, B.lore.

I, Raheeya Banu S H D/o Hussain Khan R/o No-320,4th Cross,B Block Subhash Nagar B'lore-560068 have changed my name to Rahiya Banu S H for all purposes

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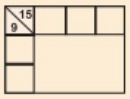
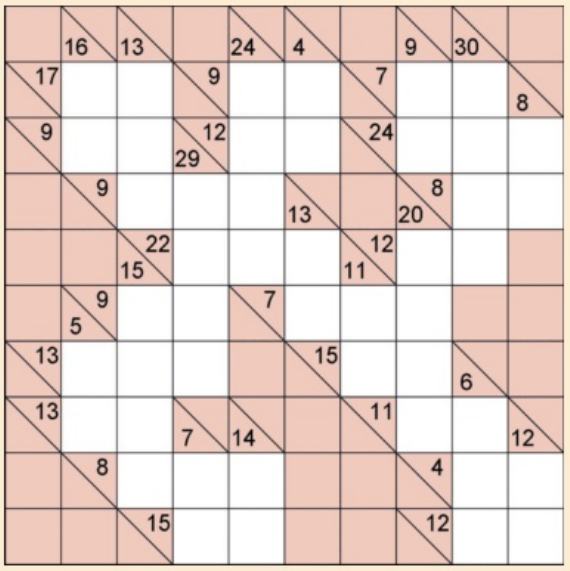
Kakuro

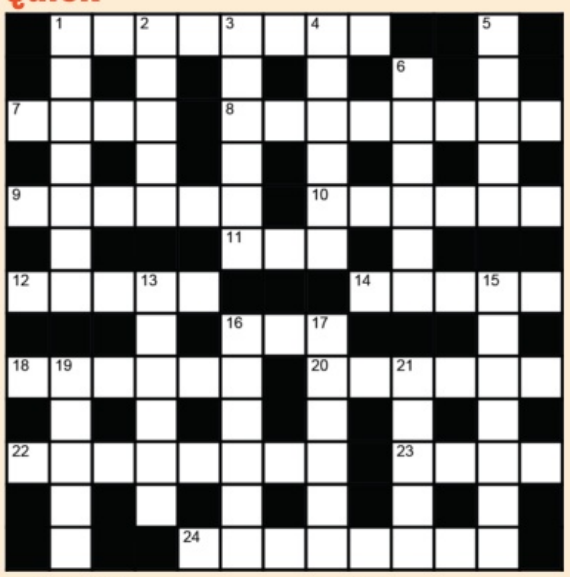
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Former Sri Lankan bowler Upul __ (8)
7 Currency of China (4)
8 Rusts, deteriorates or erodes (8)
9 Designed, made or named (6)
10 Spookily (6)
11 Greek goddess of dawn (3)
12 Iraqis or Saudis (5)
14 African lake–"as any" anagram? (5)
16 Cropped hairstyle (3)
18 A French cake (6)
20 Get or procure (6)
22 Extremely enthusiastic (4,4)
23 Declare (4)
24 Not my __ __ __ : not something to my liking? (3,2,3)

DOWN

1 Combat, contend or match (7)
2 Cancel or abrogate (5)
3 Settle or resolve (6)
4 Looks after the sick (6)
5 Reside or inhabit (5)
6 Somewhat ill (6)
13 So long, farewell! (3,3)
15 Karnataka district known for its trekking trails (7)
16 Government office (6)
17 Large island in the Pacific (6)
19 Representative (5)
21 Characteristic (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: G EQUALS N

FSIAI NSIAI CT GM VAMVIANR NSIAI CT GM CGEYTNCXI.

Linemaro

Can I borrow a kiss? I promise I'll give it back

Mindchow

The Constitution only gives people the right to pursue happiness. You have to catch it you rs elf

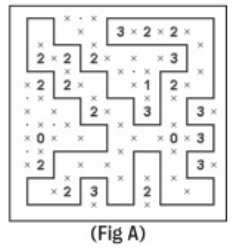
Joke of the day

When life gives you melons, you're probably dyslexic

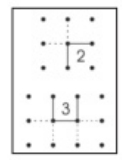
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

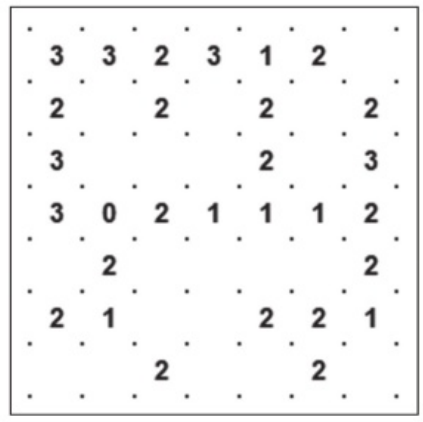


(Fig B) Not Allowed

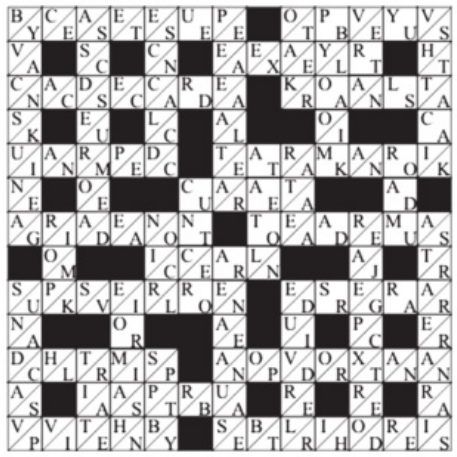
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



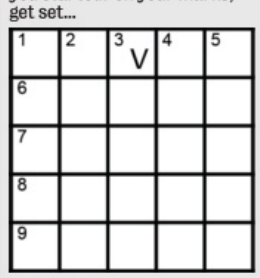
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

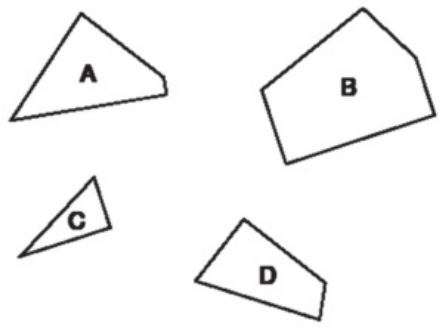
1 Dover; 6 In Zee (1-4); 7 Large; 8 Tune I; 9 Blade

DOWN

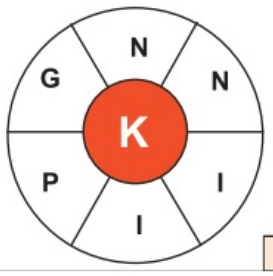
1 Bu err; 2 A Zone; 3 Gl vil; 4 Eaten; 5 L deed

Mensapuzzle

Which three of the four pieces below can be fitted together to form a perfect square?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

03 Average; 04 Good; 05 Outstanding

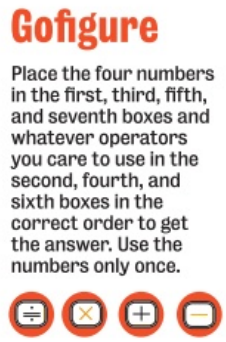
SudokuChallenge

			9	8			6	
8	5			6			4	
		7	5			3		
						1		9
2	9			5			3	7
6		8						
		9			5	4		
	7			9			2	6
	2			7	1			

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

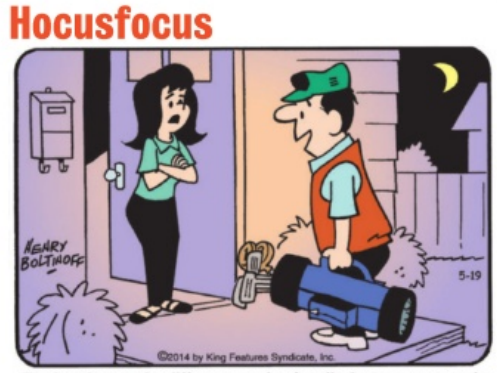


Easy = 13
3 5 5 6

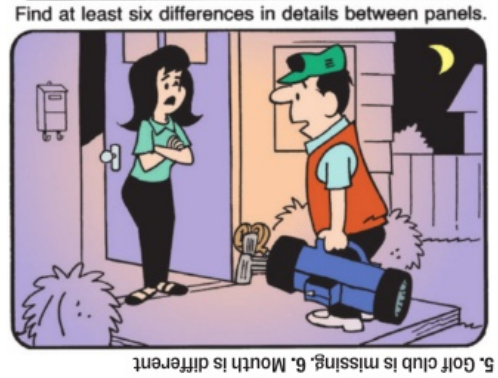
Medium = 9
3 4 5 8

Hard = 38
3 5 9 4

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



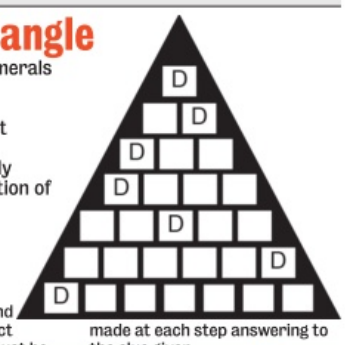
Differences: 1. Pocket on bag is smaller. 2. Mailbox is smaller. 3. Sleeve is shorter. 4. Window is added. 5. Golf club is missing. 6. Mouth is different

Riddler

All except one of the following animals have something in common. What feature connects them? Which does not fit with the others in the list? Dog, Cat, Ape, Goat, Wolf, Badger, Monkey, Squirrel

Alpha triangle

1 500 in roman numerals
2 Identity, abbr.
3 Cube
4 Plunge head-first
5 MTV offering
6 Expressed vocally
7 The legal dissolution of a marriage

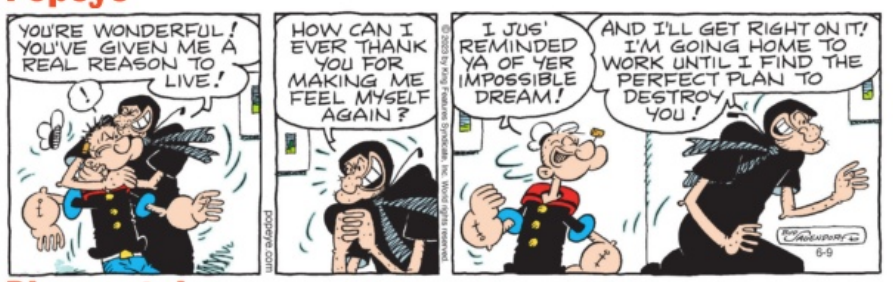


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


YOU'RE WONDERFUL! YOU'VE GIVEN ME A REAL REASON TO LIVE!
HOW CAN I EVER THANK YOU FOR MAKING ME FEEL MYSELF AGAIN?
I JUS' REMINDED YA OF YER IMPOSSIBLE DREAM!
AND I'LL GET RIGHT ON IT! I'M GOING HOME TO WORK UNTIL I FIND THE PERFECT PLAN TO DESTROY YOU!

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

GUH! WHEN'S THIS RAIN GONNA END ALREADY?!
APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS...
... BUT YOU KNOW WHAT MAY FLOWERS BRING?
PILGRIMS!
I SEE YOU'RE STILL WITH THE DUMMY.
HEY! I RESEMBLE THAT COMMENT!

Crankshaft

HAVEN'T YOU EVER THOUGHT OF JUST PACKING IT IN AND RETIRING, ED?
AND DO WHAT? GET A JOB AS A GREETER AT SPRAWL MART...
JUST DOING MY HOWDY DUTY?

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you are likely to enjoy both your domestic and professional life. You may find yourself becoming more polite with the people around you, which can help in the smooth completion of your work. Additionally, you may discover new sources of earnings, boosting your savings. You may also plan to renovate your house or office. Natives who are employed may expect promotions.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may find yourself busy on the work front. With the blessings of elders, you are likely to implement some new innovations in your work. Your ethical conduct and adherence to rules in your dealings with others may bring you inner peace and strength.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
You may feel satisfied with your responsibilities at work today. Planning a short work-related trip could be on the cards. Additionally, visiting a religious place to maintain inner peace and positivity may be beneficial. Guidance from mentors may provide clarity regarding your goals.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
You may feel dull today, so it's advised to keep a cool mind. Think twice before acting. Travelling to recover money may be necessary, but avoid adventurous trips. Students should focus on in-depth study for success. You may also be drawn to occult interests.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Feeling good today, family harmony may uplift your spirits. Meeting influential individuals may bring benefits on the work front. Expect good performance in your job, possibly leading to promotions. Disputes over inherited property may also settle down.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may find yourself in a state of self-analysis, boosting your confidence. Your focus on goals becomes clearer, leading to success. Your creativity may flourish, and you might take an interest in artefacts, movies, glamour, and real-life objects. You may end the day feeling satisfied with your life, with opponents under control.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today brings mixed situations. Avoid expecting too much from others to prevent disappointment. Self-exploration and analysis may lead to increased confidence and readiness to face challenges.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Negativity may surround you today, causing distress. Responsibilities may feel burdensome, and you might rush to complete tasks, leading to mistakes. Seek advice from elders or consultants before making important decisions to avoid setbacks.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
It's a positive day for you, with success likely on the professional front due to your hard work. Good focus may help you complete tasks ahead of time, boosting self-confidence. Expect beneficial work-related short trips that can expand your network.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Blessed by the moon today, you may expect inherited assets. Patience at work may increase efficiency, and politeness towards others can bring progress. Use your communication skills to secure new business opportunities.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Blessed by the moon, you may feel patient despite external work-related stress. Balancing work and domestic life may be easier, with improved health for parents and potentially good news from siblings.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
You may feel unhappy today, with old health issues resurfacing, leading to impatience. Avoid spending money on worthless items and control any short temper. Lovebirds should steer clear of discussions on trivial matters to avoid potential breakups.

KIDZONE

Bhavana, 11 Years, Kendriya Vidyalaya

Hemanth Kumar S, 14 Years, CMR School

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SOLUTIONS

RIDDLER
GOAT does not fit – the others are all human actions (verbs)
Explanation: Dog = to follow (someone) closely, Ape = to copy, mimic, Cat = to raise an anchor or flirt (slang), Wolf = to eat greedily, Badger = to pester (someone), ask repeatedly for something, Monkey = to fool around; to tamper (with), Squirrel = to hide things away in a safe place

SOLVE IN 1M
$=\sqrt{(27/3^2)}$
$=\sqrt{(3^3/3^2)}$
$=(3)^2$
$=9$

FAST FIVE

R	O	V	E	D
E	Z	I	N	E
R	E	G	A	L
U	N	I	T	E
B	A	L	E	D

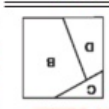
STRIKE OUT

P	I	T	H	Y	S	T	R	I	D	E	S			
A	A	S	T	R	A	E	E	R						
C	H	R	I	S	N	O	V	O	T	N	A			
U	P	S	I	L	O	N	D	R	E	A	R			
E	Z	I	N	E	M	A	I	C	A	M				
R	E	G	A	L	I	C	A	N	J	A	R			
G	I	D	E	O	N	O	E	D	E	M	A			
N	E	U	R	E	A	A								
I	N	R	E	D	E	A	R	M	A	R	K			
K	U	L	L	O	O	C								
C	A	S	C	A	D	E	K	O	A	L	A			
A	S	C	E	X	A	L	T	H						
B	E	A	T	S	U	P	O	B	E	Y	S			

QUICK

C	H	A	N	D	A	N	A							
O	N	E	U	P	W									
Y	U	A	N	C	O	R	R	O	D	E	S			
N	U	I	S	O	L									
S	T	Y	L	E	D	E	E	R	I	L	Y			
E		E	O	S	L									
A	R	A	B	S	N	Y	A	S	A					
H		B	O	B										
Y			J	R										
M	I	C	A	N										
N	E	U	R	E	A	A								
I	N	R	E	D	E	A	R	M	A	R	K			
K	U	L	L	O	O	C								
C	A	S	C	A	D	E	K	O	A	L	A			
A	S	C	E	X	A	L	T	H						
B	E	A	T	S	U	P	O	B	E	Y	S			

MENSA PUZZLE



C D B

QUOTE UNCODE
Where there is no property there is no injustice.

BULL'S EYE
inking, king, KINGPIN, pink, PINKING

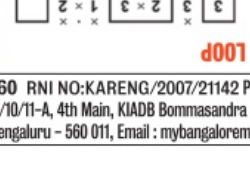
SUDOKU

4	1	2	9	8	3	7	6	5
8	5	3	1	6	7	9	4	2
9	6	7	5	4	2	3	1	8
7	4	5	2	3	6	1	8	9
2	9	1	8	5	4	6	3	7
6	3	8	7	1	9	2	5	4
3	8	9	6	2	5	4	7	1
1	7	4	3	9	8	5	2	6
5	2	6	4	7	1	8	9	3

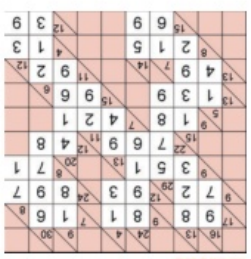
ALPHA TRIANGLE
D, Id, Die, Dive, Video, Voiced, Divorce.

GO FIGURE
Easy
$5 + 5 - 3 + 6 = 13$
Medium
$5 \times 4 - 8 - 3 = 9$
Hard
$9 \times 4 - 3 + 5 = 38$

LOOP



KAKURO

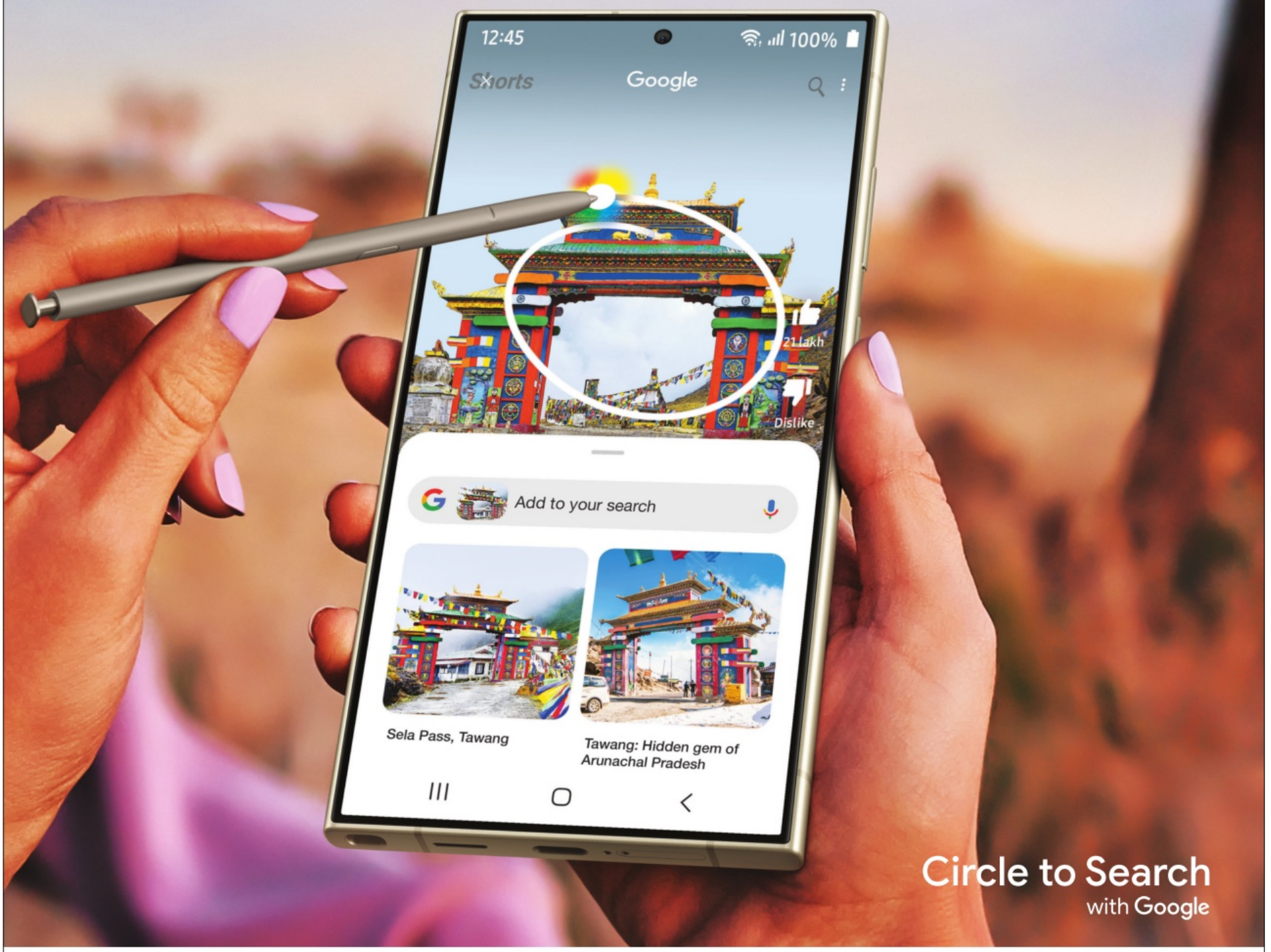


Volume No 17, Issue No 060 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru - 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon - responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

SAMSUNG

Galaxy S24 Ultra

Circle it, find it



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